



# July 2014 Update



## A Ministry Letter of Brent and Kerri Roberts IMPORTANT UPDATE!!!!!! PLEASE READ!!!



*"You will never be completely at home again, because part of your heart always will be elsewhere. That is the price you pay for the richness of loving and knowing people in more than one place." (Miriam Adeney)*

Kerri shared this quote with me recently and it rang ever so true! Zambia has wrecked us (in a good way). Over the past 6 & 1/2 years, we've made so many new friends, learned so much about ourselves, seen our Heavenly Father through a completely different cultural lense, had numerous adventures with wild-life and people, seen the gut-wrenching heartache that poverty, disease and death creates, and experienced extreme moments of joy as we've seen men, women and children changed from the inside out through the power of Christ! Through it all, Zambia has become home to us!

If our life was a book, the last 6 & 1/2 years would have many different chapters. Chapter 1: "Growing Pains" - as we struggled through trying to learn to live in a different culture with a different set of values and expectations. Chapter 2: "Faith and Trust" - as we leaned on God through the trial of Kerri's stroke and it's effects. Chapter 3: "Faithfulness" - as we saw God heal Kerri completely and as He continually sustained us here in our work through His people (that's you!). Chapter 4: "Friends" - the ones that God provided to help Zambia really become home. Chapter 5: "Ministry" - as we labored with our Zambian friends to make much of Christ. Chapter 6: "Transitions" - as the Lord moved us from urban to rural ministry in Chikankata. And last, but not least, Chapter 7: "Learning" - as we have been learning more and more about God Himself, how He has gifted us and the passions He has given us. There might be more chapters in between, but it's apparent that He's not finished writing our book.

That's the reason we are penning this letter to you. First, we want to say thank you. Thank you for being there for us throughout the process as God patiently brought us along. Thank you for continually upholding us in prayer and going to

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battle on behalf of our family. Thank you for your sacrifices. Thank you for giving to our ministry! Thank you for partnering with us in both word and deed. Over the past 8 years from the beginning stages of raising support until now, we can honestly say that we have not lacked provision for life and ministry here in Zambia. And your giving has not only met our needs, but many of our Zambian friends' needs as well. By supporting our family, you have put underprived children through school, you have provided jobs for countless families who had no means to support themselves and you have enriched the lives of many with the Gospel of Jesus. You have blessed us in so many ways and been such a continual encouragement to us and we are eternally grateful.

God is writing a new chapter in our book though. One He began to show us about 6 months ago. Chapter 8: "Homecoming" - God calling the Roberts back to their first home.

Since the end of last year, Kerri and I have been feeling the Lord stirring our hearts - a very similar feeling to when we were first called to Zambia. We didn't know what God was up to, but knew He was preparing us for something. As He began to stir us, we just asked God to show us what He wants for us. And now we believe that He has answered. This has been one of the hardest decisions we have had to make as a family, but we believe that God is calling us to move on from this season of ministry in Zambia, and to return to a new season in the States.

There are so many things that have led us to this decision, including our personal giftings and passions and our children's needs. But the over-arching reason is the Lord's leading. While we love our life here and the people we work with, we feel like God has given us a call like He gave Abraham - "Go...and I will show you." That's the scary part! We don't know exactly what's next, but are stepping out in faith and trusting Him to show us.

We truly believe that our God is not a wasteful God and that He does everything with Holy purpose. Yes, God has used us to impact the lives of people here in Zambia, but just as importantly, He has used Zambia to impact us, to teach us, and to change us forever. We believe that He has been preparing us for this new direction in life and ministry and we are excited about what's next.



**Online Donations:** Go to [www.CTEN.org/BrentRoberts](http://www.CTEN.org/BrentRoberts)

**Donations via USPS:** Send checks to: Commission to Every Nation, PO Box 291307, Kerrville, TX 78029-1307, \* Be sure to include a note designating the donation to the ministry of Brent & Kerri Roberts



## Continued...



For now, our plan is to return to the States as a family in November. This has huge implications for us and for our ministry partners, the Whitfields. We want to finish well! Would you pray for us?

### Please pray for:

+ **The Whitfields.** Pray that they will flourish in our absence. Pray that the ministry would grow and that their family would be used in amazing ways to both the Tonga and farming communities here in Zambia.



Friends and Ministry Partners  
The Whitfields

### + **Transition of Ministry in Ngangula.**

The development with the rural outreach center in Ngangula is almost complete and we should be moving Pastor Hyrence onto the property by the end of the month. This is a very high priority item that needs to be done before our departure as it will ensure a smooth transition of responsibilities from us to the Whitfields. Pray that Pastor Hyrence would be a solid leader who will be effective in carrying the vision of Eleeo Project into the surrounding communities.

+ **Our workers.** We share the responsibility with the Whitfields of providing employment to 6 different families. We are committed to making sure these families are taken care of, either through finding other employment or securing additional funding for 3 of these families to continue to work for Eleeo Project. Please contact us if this sounds like something you would be interested in helping with.

+ **Our precious Dailes.** Dailes (a widow with 3 children) has been with us from the first day we moved to Zambia and she is family to us. We are all heart-broken to leave her and she is equally struggling with our leaving. Pray that God will open the way for her to find and do what He has been preparing her for! Pray that God would provide for her every need.



+ **Moving.** Pray that we would be able to sell our vehicle and our household goods.

+ **Our Children.** 4 out of 5 of our children have lived here longer than they have lived in the States. This is their home. They have a life and deep friendships here. Pray for Caleb, Gracy, Thomas, Maddie and Ellie as they transition back to life in the States and all that will entail.

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### Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

We can't express just how thankful we are for your continued sacrifice on our behalf over the past 7 years! We can honestly say that our every need has been supplied through each of you in Christ Jesus! You have been such a blessing to us and to our friends here in Zambia whom we love so much.

We've been praying about opportunities to minister in the States and have some exciting leads, but we really want to make sure we're following God's leading. We're in close communication with the eldership of our sending church Columbia Crossroads and our sending agency Commission to Every Nation. We're praying that after some "downtime" with family over the holidays, we will have some more discernment on potential next steps. Please will you continue to stand by us and continue your support as we seek out the Lord's will?

In Christ,  
Brent and Kerri Roberts



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